

CBC pours it on in second half to blow out close game with St. Dominic

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Two weeks ago, the St. Dominic and Christian Brothers College (CBC) played a tightly contested game which CBC won 1-0 on a second half goal by Sam Carezza as part of the Bob Guelker CYC Tournament at the Anheuser Busch Centre in Fenton.

This time around in a non-conference match played at St. Dominic Wednesday, the tightly contested nature again lasted just over one half of play before the Cadets blew open the game in the 3-0 win.

"I told the kids at halftime that we spent the first half chasing the game," CBC coach Terry Michler said. "We gave the ball away. We didn't close people down. We were in between all of their movements. Everything that went wrong for us in the first half, even though it seemed to be all physical, it was all mental."

The Cadets (14-2) revamped the team's mental approach at halftime and quickly took the lead.

CBC went up 1-0 at the 2 minute, 46 second mark when Sean Kuster blasted a ball from about 22 yards out past St. Dominic goalkeeper Travis Abt. Matt Hutchison was credited with an assist on the play.

"I was real happy with that one," said Hutchison of Kuster's goal. "It really lifted the team."

While Kuster lifted the team, Hutchison made like a hot air balloon and kept the team floating.

The Cadets' senior found the back of the net twice to cement the CBC lead.

First, he found a loose ball deep in the St. Dominic penalty area off a Cadets' corner kick and plowed a shot past Abt with 6:48 into the half to put CBC up 2-0. CBC's Alec Cochran assisted on that goal.

"Nick Kidd, No., 18, comes into the line-up and gets us going," Michler said. "That's what it was. It was a spark that they were lacking. Soccer's a funny game in that you get two chances to play. If you have a great first half, I am always leery of the second. I always like the bad first half because as I told them, the good news is that it can only get better."

It truly got even better as CBC took the 3-0 lead with 8:50 gone in the second half.

Hutchison took a crisp pass from Kidd and banged it past Abt to round out the scoring.

"It felt great," said Hutchison of his two goals. "I just came back from being sick for a while and to bury those two was just great."

Michler was happy to see his team keep after it and not wind up happy with holding on to a one goal edge.

"There seems to be something about scoring in bunches," Michler said. "You get one and the other teams a little bit back on their heels. If you stay with it, you can get more like we did with the three in six or eight minutes or whatever it was."

Even though it will look as if CBC ran away with the game, things could have been 180 degrees different if only St. Dominic could have finished off one of a handful of first chances it had as a result of having a good portion of the play in the game's first 40 minutes.

The best chances for the Crusaders came on three almost successive chances over the final 16 minutes of the half.

First, St. Dominic's Ryan Seifert blasted a shot from 35 yards out but CBC's keeper, Drew Duncan, was up to the task.

Just over five minutes later, Troy Gittemeier turned on a shot from about 25 yards out and whistled it just high and wide of the Cadets' goal.

Finally, Seifert ripped into a free kick from 28 yards out with 2:14 left before halftime and the resulting shot sailed just over the crossbar.

"We were in it, but even the last game we were in it the whole way," St. Dominic coach Greg Koeller said. "That's why we play these types of teams because it will benefit us in the long run."

But as it turned out, the thing that would ultimately slow the Crusaders down was the halftime break.

"Halftime just killed us," Koeller said. "We lost our focus and some poor decisions cost us. We gave the game to them."